

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic ticket checking apparatus comprising:  
a main body which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof;  
first receiving means provided at one end of the apparatus main body for receiving a first magnetic ticket;  
a first conveying mechanism for conveying a the first magnetic ticket in a first direction from the first receiving means to about a center of the apparatus along a the first passage way;  
first ticket checking means for reading information recorded on the first magnetic ticket and a first wireless ticket and judging whether or not the information read by the first checking means is valid;  
first eject means provided at about the center of the apparatus main body for ejecting the first magnetic ticket conveyed by the first conveying mechanism to about the center of the apparatus main body;  
second receiving means provided near the other end of the apparatus main body for receiving a second magnetic ticket;  
a second conveying mechanism arranged opposite side of the first conveying mechanism in the apparatus main body for conveying the second magnetic ticket in a second direction opposite to the first direction from the second receiving means to about a the center of the apparatus main body and along a the second passage way in parallel with the first passage way;  
second ticket checking means for reading information recorded on the second magnetic ticket and a second wireless ticket and judging whether or not the information read by the second checking means is valid; and  
second eject means provided at about the center of the apparatus main body for ejecting the second magnetic ticket conveyed by the second conveying mechanism to about the center of the apparatus main body.
2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first conveying mechanism is provided at the first passage ~~way~~ side of the apparatus main body, and

the second conveying mechanism is provided at the second passage ~~way~~ side of the apparatus main body.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first cover configured to cover the first conveying mechanism from its one end to about the center along the passage ~~way~~; and

a second cover, which is separated from the first cover, configured to cover the second conveying mechanism from its other end to about the center along the passage ~~way~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

the first cover is provided to open/close freely without obstructing a user to pass the second passage ~~way~~ in the second direction, and

the second cover is provided to open/close freely without obstructing a user to pass the first passage ~~way~~ in the first direction.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

collecting means for collecting the first and second magnetic tickets conveyed by the first and second conveying mechanism collectively.

9. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the collecting means is configured to be able to take out the collected magnetic tickets from either the first or the second passage side.

10. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

first holding means for temporarily holding the magnetic tickets to be collected in the collecting means out of the magnetic tickets conveyed by the first conveying mechanism while the magnetic tickets accommodated in the collecting means are taken out of the second passage side; and

second holding means for temporarily holding the magnetic tickets to be collected in the collecting means out of the magnetic ticket conveyed by the second conveying mechanism while the magnetic tickets accommodated in the collecting means are taken out of the first passage side.

11. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

first prohibiting means for prohibiting the receipt by the first receiving means when the magnetic ticket holding capacity of the first holding means reaches the saturated state; and

second prohibiting means for prohibiting the receipt by the second receiving means when the magnetic ticket holding capacity of the second holding means reaches the saturated state.

12. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

control means for controlling the first and second conveying mechanism to be maintained collectively; and

switching means for switching a maintenance object by the control means to the first ticket checking means when the first cover is opened, and switching a maintenance object by the control means to the second ticket checking means when the second cover is opened.

13. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

designating means for accepting the selection and designation of a maintenance object by the control means.

14. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking means according to claim 1, further comprising:

common display means for displaying a guidance relative to the process by the first and second ticket checking means.

15. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the common display means includes:

a first display to display a guidance relative to the process by the first ticket checking means; and

a second display to display a guidance relative to the process by the second ticket checking means;

wherein the first display is given with directivity so that the guidance displayed on the first display is not visible from a user who is going in the second direction, and the second display is given with directivity so that the guidance displayed on the second display is not visible from a user who is going in the first direction.

16. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

a first shading plate arranged at the first display so as to give prescribed directivity to the first display; and

a second shading plate arranged at the second display so as to give prescribed directivity to the second display.

17. – 22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) An automatic ticket checking apparatus comprising:  
a main body which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof;

first receiving means provided to the main body for receiving using data from a first wireless ticket which is carried by a first user who is passing ~~along a prescribed passage~~ the first passage in a first direction and recording the using data;

first judging means for judging a passing propriety of the first user based on the using data received by the first receiving means;

approving means for approving the passing of the first user when the passing is judged to be approved by the first judging means;

second receiving means provided to the main body for receiving using data from a second wireless ticket which is carried by a second user ~~who is passing along a passage in the direction differing from the prescribed passage~~ the second passage in a second direction opposite to the first direction and recording the using data;

second judging means for judging a passing property of the second user based on the using data received by the second receiving means;

third judging means for Judging whether the second wireless ticket is the same as the first wireless ticket that is carried by the first user who was approved to pass by the approving means based on the using data received by the second receiving means;

prohibiting means for prohibiting the execution of judging the passing property of the second user by the second judging means when the second wireless ticket is judged to be the same as the first wireless ticket by the third judging means; and

control means for executing the judging a passing property of the second user by the second judging means when the second wireless ticket is judged differing from the first wireless ticket by the third judging means.

24. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving identification data inherent to each ticket recorded on the wireless ticket therefrom; and

storage means for storing the identification data of the received wireless ticket;

wherein the third judging means judges whether the second wireless ticket is the same as the first wireless ticket based on the identification data stored in the storage means.

25. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:

erasing means for erasing the identification data from the storage means when a prescribed time passed after storing the identification data stored in the storage means.

26. (Currently Amended) An automatic ticket checking apparatus comprising:  
a main body ~~to define a prescribed passage~~ which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof;

first wireless communication means provided at one end of the main body into which a first user enters the passage in a first direction for wireless communicating with a first wireless ticket carried by the first user ~~along the prescribed passage;~~

first judging means for judging a passing propriety of the first user based on the result of the wireless communication with the first wireless ticket by the first communication means;

approving means for approving the passing of the first user when the passing is judged to be approved by the first judging means;

second wireless communication means provided at the other end of the main body into which a second user enters the second passage in a second direction ~~opposing opposite~~ to the first direction for wireless communicating with a second wireless ticket carried by the second user;

second judging means for judging whether the wireless ticket which is wireless communicated is the same as the first wireless ticket carried by the first user whose passing is approved by the approving means based on the wireless communication by the second wireless communication means;

third judging means for judging a passing propriety of the second user based on the result of the wireless communication with the second wireless ticket by the second wireless communication means when the second wireless ticket is not the same as the first wireless ticket by the second judging means; and

prohibiting means for prohibiting the judgment of the third judging means when the second wireless ticket is judged to be the same as the first wireless ticket by the second judging means.

27. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

canceling means for canceling the prohibition of judgment of passing by the prohibiting means;

passing propriety judging means for judging a passing propriety of a user based on the result of wireless communication which was made again with the second wireless ticket that was judged to be the same as the first wireless ticket-by the second wireless communicating means after canceling the prohibition of passage by the canceling means; and

passing approving means for approving the passing of the second user when the passing is judged to be approved by the passing propriety judging means.

28. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

means for receiving identification data inherent to every ticket stored in the wireless ticket therefrom; and

storage means for storing the received identification data of the wireless ticket; wherein the second judging means judges whether the wireless ticket with which communicated wirelessly is the first wireless ticket based on the identification data stored in the storage means.

29. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising:

erasing means for erasing an identification data from the storage means when a prescribed time passed after the identification data stored in the storage means was stored therein.

30. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

canceling means for canceling the prohibition of judgment of passing propriety by the prohibiting means when the identification data is erased by the erasing means;

passing propriety judging means for judging a passing propriety of a user based on the result of wireless communication that was made again with the second ticket judged to be the same as the first wireless ticket by the second wireless communication means after canceling by the canceling means; and

passing approving means for approving the passing of the second user when the passing is to be approved by the passing propriety judging means.

31. (Previously Presented) The automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

the second judging means further judges whether it is within a prescribed time from the wireless communication with the first wireless ticket by the first wireless communication means; and

the prohibiting means prohibits a user carrying the wireless ticket to pass to the passage in the direction differing from the prescribed passage when judged to be within the prescribed time from the wireless communication with the first wireless ticket by the first wireless communication means.

32. (Previously Presented) An automatic ticket checking apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

canceling means for canceling the prohibition of the passing by judgment of passing by the prohibiting means after a prescribed time; and

second approving means for approving the passing of a user preferentially to the cancellation of the passing prohibition by the canceling means when judged the passing is to be approved by the third judging means.

33. (Currently Amended) An automatic ~~Automatic~~ ticket checking apparatus comprising:

a main body which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof;



first wireless communicating means provided to the main body for wireless communicating with a first wireless ticket carried by a first user who is passing ~~along a prescribed passage~~ the first passage in a first direction;

first judging means for judging a passing propriety of the first user based on the result of wireless communication with the first wireless ticket by the first wireless communication means;

second wireless communicating means provided to the main body for wireless communicating with a second wireless ticket carried by a second user who is passing ~~along the second passage in the a second direction different from the prescribed passage opposite to the first direction~~;

approving means for approving the passing of the first user when the passing is judged to be approved by the first judging means;

storage means for storing data shown the first wireless ticket carried by the first user who is approved to pass by the approving means;

second judging means for judging whether the second wireless ticket with which wirelessly communicated is the same as the first wireless ticket stored in the storage means based on the wireless communication by the second wireless communication means;

prohibiting means for prohibiting a user to pass the second passage in the direction differing from the prescribed passage when the wireless ticket with which wirelessly communicated by the second wireless communicating means is judged to be the first wireless ticket by the second judging means; and

control means for prohibiting the storing of the storage means when the second wireless communicating means is not making the wireless communication with a 5 wireless ticket.

34. (Currently Amended) An automatic ticket checking apparatus comprising:  
a main body which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof;

a first insert port provided at one side of the main body, into which a magnetic ticket is inserted by a user who is passing ~~along a prescribed passage~~ the first passage in a first direction;

first insert prohibiting means for prohibiting the insert of the magnetic ticket into the first insert port;

first wireless communication means provided at one side of the main body likewise the first insert port for wireless communicating with a wireless ticket carried by a user passing ~~along the prescribed passage~~ the first passage in the first direction;

second insert port provided at the other side of the main body, into which a magnetic ticket is inserted by a user who is passing ~~along a passage differing from the prescribed passage~~ the second passage in a second direction opposite to the first direction;

second insert prohibiting means for prohibiting the insert of the magnetic ticket into the second insert port;

second wireless communication means provided at the other side of the main body likewise the second insert port for wireless communicating with a wireless ticket carried by a user who is passing ~~along the different passage~~ the second passage in the second direction;

approving means for approving the passing of a user who is carrying a magnetic ticket or a wireless ticket based on using data recorded on the magnetic ticket inserted into the first or second insert port or the wireless ticket with which wireless communicated by the first or second wireless communication means;

control means for prohibiting the insert of a magnetic ticket into the second insert port by driving the second insert prohibiting means and the wireless communication with a wireless ticket by the second wireless communication means when the magnetic ticket is inserted into the first insert port or the wireless ticket is wireless communicated by the second wireless communication means; and

cancellation means for canceling the prohibition of wireless communication of the second wireless communication means which was prohibited to make the wireless communication by the control means and after this cancellation, to cancel the prohibition of the insert of a magnetic ticket into the second insert port by driving the second insert prohibiting means when the passing of a user is approved by the: approving means based on the using data of the magnetic ticket inserted into the first insert port or a wireless ticket with the wireless communicated by the first wireless communication means.

35. (Currently Amended) A ticket checking method of an automatic ticket checking apparatus including a main body defining a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof with a first insert port and first wireless

communicating means provided at one side of a the main body and a second insert port and a second communicating means at the other side of the main body, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

prohibiting the insert of a magnetic ticket into the second insert port by a user who is passing ~~along a passage differing from a prescribed passage~~ the second passage and prohibiting the wireless communication with a wireless ticket carried by a user who is passing ~~along the different~~ second passage by the second wireless communicating means when a magnetic ticket is inserted into the first insert port by a user who is passing along ~~the prescribed passage~~ the first or a wireless ticket carried by a user who is passing ~~along the prescribed~~ the first passage by the first wireless communication means; reading using data recorded on the magnetic ticket inserted into the first insert port or the wireless ticket with which wireless communicated by the first wireless communication means;

approving the passing of users who are carrying respective tickets based on the read using data;

canceling the prohibition of the wireless communication by the second wireless communicating means which was prohibited to make the wireless communication after approving the passing of a user carrying a ticket; and

canceling the prohibition of the insert of a magnetic ticket into the second insert port after canceling the wireless communication.

36. (Canceled).

37. (New) A ticket checking method of an automatic checking apparatus including a main body which defines a first passage to one side thereof and a second passage to another side thereof, a first receiving means provided to the main body for receiving using data from a first wireless ticket which is carried by a first user who is passing the first passage in a first direction and recording the using data, first judging means for judging a passing propriety of the first user based on the using data received by the first receiving means, approving means for approving the passing of the first user when the passing is judged to be approved by the first judging means, second receiving means provided to the main body for receiving using data from a second wireless ticket which is carried by a second user passing the second passage in a second direction opposite to the first direction and recording the using data, second judging means for judging a passing property of the second user based on the using data received by the second receiving means, the method comprising:

judging whether the second wireless ticket is the same as the first wireless ticket that is carried by the first user who has approved to pass by the approving means based on the using data received by the second receiving means;

prohibiting the execution of judging the passing property of the second user by the second judging means when the second wireless ticket is judged to be the same as the first wireless ticket by the third judging means; and

executing the judging a passing property of the second user by the second judging means when the second wireless ticket is judged differing from the first wireless ticket by the third judging means.